

come to go into his counting-house. What will you say to him, my father?"

"I shall say nothing to him, Rene. The offer is to you, and you must make the choice."

The boy had risen and come back to the hearth, and now stood gazing thoughtfully down into the coals at his feet. He was tall for his age, and his sun-burnt cheek and well-developed chest and limbs told of much exercise in the open air.

"I have heard you say, my father, that you held the profession of medicine next in usefulness to that of the sacred ministry."

"I hold so still, Rene, next in usefulness and next in danger. You see M. Laval tells us what our young sieur forgot to mention, that the last edict closes the door of your chosen profession to all adherents of the religion."

Godfrey Chevalier's son looked up with a deep, steady fire in his eyes.

(To be Continued.)

THE NOBLER SEX.

How sorely does it seem to vex
Those minds that speculate and plan,
As which should be the nobler sex—
Woman or man!

We hear opinions through the press,
In oratory from the boards:
With all the force and eagerness
That wit affords:

Till, weary of a neuter cause,
Where common sense is undefined;
And where the Great Creator's laws
Are left behind—

We wonder, with a tinge of shame,
If the promoters of their wrong
Are worthy of the noble name
That makes them strong.

If either side could but be brought
To see the judgment that they lacked;
If less of theory were taught,
And more of fact;

Then men would see their virtue lies
In every woman that they meet,
And not in shouting to the skies
Their own conceit.

And women would be taught to feel
That there is the diviner fate,
For love that can a wrong conceal
And conquer hate.

So argues the right-minded one,
When all opinions have been read;
'Twere better far if more were done
And less were said.

—C. Guise Mitford.

THE COMING ECLIPSE.

The American expedition to proceed to West Africa to observe the total eclipse of the sun on the 22nd December next, has been organized under the leadership of Prof. David Todd. The U. S. war vessel *Pensacola* will bear the party, and was expected to be ready for sailing on the 14th inst. After landing at St. Paul de Loando, the expedition will proceed up the Quanza river a distance of seventy-five miles to a town called Mucima. At this place the observations will be made. Prof. Todd has had considerable experience in conducting observations of this kind, he having been a member of the parties who were sent to Mexico and Japan. He was invited by the trustees of the Lick Observatory to conduct the observation of the transit of Venus in 1882. Among the members of the present party are: Prof. Cleveland Abbe, who is in charge of the meteorological department; Mr. E. D. Preston, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, who expects to make determinations of gravity and magnetism; Mr. Corbutt, of this city, who has charge of the important branch of photography; Mr. C. A. Orr, sent by the Clark University; Mr. Harvey Brown, representing the U. S. National Museum; and others.—*The American*.

FIVE O'CLOCK TEA.

A Chinese journalist has been giving his impressions of the Western world, and it makes very interesting reading. Here is his description of a 5 o'clock tea: "When the time comes, invitations are sent to an equal number of men and women, and after they are all assembled, tea and sugar, milk, bread and the like are set out as aids to conversation. More particularly are there invitations to skip and posture, when the host decides what man is to be the partner of what woman, and what woman of what man. Then with both arms grasping each other they leave the table in pairs, and leap, skip, posture, and prance for their mutual gratification. A man and a woman previously unknown to one another may take part in it. They call this skipping-tanzen (dancing). Tea, which is pronounced tee, is always black tea; but it must be mixed with milk and white sugar. They dare not drink it neat, alleging that it would corrode, and so injure the drinker.

SWAZILAND.

Sir Francis de Winton has sailed for the Cape en route to Swaziland, commissioned, it is understood, to bring to some sort of settlement the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in that desirable country, a country on which the Transvaal Boers have been for long casting covetous eyes. Sir F. de Winton will be provided at the Cape with a secretary and a legal adviser, and will take counsel with the Cape authorities, and later with those of Natal. For, probably, had it not been for the objections urged by those two colonies, Swaziland would have been taken under British administration long ago. A reference to recent Blue-books will show that, through Sir Evelyn Wood and otherwise, the Swazis have been assured of our protection whenever they asked for it. By the convention between England and the South African Republic in 1884 the independence of the Swazis was guaranteed. They are perhaps the most warlike people in South Africa; they have always been loyal allies of England, and in 1879 rendered us good service against the Zulus as well as against Secoceni. Their country offers many temptations to adventurers. It is rich in minerals, and especially in gold, and already the country is almost entirely in the hands of concessionaries. It covers an area of about 8,000 square miles. It has generally mountainous boundary, and is almost surrounded on three sides by the Transvaal, with the Lobombo mountains in the east. The interior consists of swelling hills, and choice stretches of arable land, and well-wooded flats. Over a considerable extent of the grazing area concessions have been obtained by Boers, and between them and the mining concessionaries there have been many disputes, which have led to some of the troubles by which the country has been disturbed. The soil, it is stated, will grow almost anything that is planted, and the climate, though hot in summer, is healthy. Game abounds, and timber is fairly plentiful; and there are rivers enough to render a fairly complete system of irrigation practicable. The native population number about 60,000, while the king, it is said, has 15,000 fighting men at his command. The king, Umbandeni, though a comparatively young man, is described by one authority as a regular Falstaff, rapidly wasting himself into his grave with champagne and gin. His death would entirely precipitate matters, so that if any settlement is to be come to peacefully Sir Francis de Winton has not left too soon.—*London Mail*.

MEN OF STRAW.

In earlier times the procuring of witnesses to perjure themselves by false swearing was more common than now, and men could be easily found to give any evidence upon oath that might be required of them. In England it was a common thing for these mercurial wretches to walk openly in Westminster Hall with a straw in one of his shoes to signify they wanted employment as witnesses: hence originated the expression "he is a man of straw." These false witnesses can boast of a high antiquity. A writer in the *Quarterly Review*, describing the ancient courts in Greece, says, "We have all heard of a race of men who used in former days to ply about our own courts of law, and who, from their manner of making known their occupation, were recognized by the name of straw-shoes. An advocate or lawyer who wanted a convenient witness knew by these signs where to find one, and the colloquy between the parties was brief. 'Don't you remember?' said the advocate. The party looked at the fee and gave no sign; but the fee increased, and the powers of memory increased with it: 'To be sure I do.' 'Then come into court and swear it!' And straw-shoes went into court and swore it. Athens abounded in straw-shoes." There are plenty of "straw-shoes" still, but they do not wear their distinguishing mark. They devote their talents now chiefly to furnishing bail without the necessary qualifications, and "straw-bail" has become a familiar term in our courts.—*Lippincott's for November*.

A NEW MAGAZINE.

The *Arena* is the title of a new monthly to be issued in Boston. The first number will appear Dec. 1. It will be devoted to the discussion of the leading social and political issues and the publishers expect to number among its contributors the ablest thinkers of the present time. Rabbi Solomon Schindler will contribute an article on "Trend of Religious Thought in Germany," and H. O. Pentecost of the *Twentieth Century* an article on "Capital Punishment" for the first issue. Other leading writers are also to be heard from in season for the first number of the proposed magazine. Its form and general character of make-up will be similar to the *North American Review*.—*Boston Herald*, Sept. 29, 1889.

DR. O'DWYER, Roman Catholic bishop of Limerick, has taken decisive action to enforce the Pope's condemnation of boycotting and the plan of campaign.

Hints on Art Silk Needle Work.

Ladies who are interested in this beautiful work should send for a copy of our sixty-four page book entitled "Hints on Art Needle Work," just published, handsomely and profusely illustrated with patterns of many new and beautiful articles, also stitches for the new decorative work with our Wash Silks, now so popular for home fancy work. It also contains a table of shading for flowers and birds, and much information, valuable and instructive, for those who have a taste for Silk Embroidery Work. Sent free by mail on receipt of six cents in stamps. Belding, Paul & Co., Silk Manufacturers, Montreal.

British and Foreign.

DR. MURRAY MITCHELL has resumed his winter services at Nice.

The population of Belfast has risen from 87,000 in 1851 to 250,000.

A MEMORIAL window to the Countess of Rothes is to be erected in Leslie parish church.

AT Tobermory Mr. Bell, the Baptist minister, preached in the parish church recently.

PRINCIPAL BROWN recently conducted an evangelistic service in Cowcaddens Church, Glasgow.

THE altar of St. Mary's, Scilly Islands, was decorated with lobsters, crabs and crayfish at the harvest festival.

AN Edinburgh meeting of 300 ladies welcomed the Scottish deputies on their return from the Waldensian celebration.

MR. GLADSTONE will contribute to *Good Words* next year an article on "The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture."

DUNDEE has 211 licensed grocers, while Glasgow, with four times the population, is content with 258 of these favoured traders.

DR. MOIR PORTEOUS is analyzing the St. Giles' sermon of Dr. Marcus Dods in a series of Sabbath afternoon discourses.

THE Rev. James Mackintosh, M.A., ordained 1843, has resigned the parish of Deskford on a retiring allowance of \$1,000.

DR. GEORGE GORDON, ordained 1832, one of the fathers of the Scottish Church, has resigned the parish of Birnie, Morayshire.

THE entire number of places in Great Britain which have adopted the Free Libraries Acts is 190; in 1886 the number stood at 133.

THE *United Presbyterian Magazine*, of which Professor Calderwood is editor, proposes to give a serial story next year.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT declares that the time has come when the Established Church of Wales must cease to exist.

THE national drink bill of Great Britain for 1888 amounted to \$623,057,195,—\$16 per head of the population. Ten years ago the rate was \$5.

DR. JAMES MARTINEAU and his family attend the parish church at Aviemore, which has been their summer quarters for the last dozen years or more.

THE Rev. James Cooper, of Aberdeen, has translated a post-communion anthem from the ancient "Book of Deir," for use in public service.

DEAN PIGOU is to conduct a "retreat" for women in the Lady chapel of Chichester cathedral from Nov. 12 to 16. This is in the Church of England.

THE Highland athletes in Paris paraded to the Scottish church, their kilted procession through the streets on Sunday attracting considerable attention.

THE Archbishop of Rheims has organized a pilgrimage to Rome of 12,000 French artisans. This is expected to counteract socialism among the lower orders.

GAELIC services in Crown-court Church, London, are the occasion of considerable gatherings of Highlanders, and it is hinted that the happy result is a good deal of match-making.

GLASGOW Presbytery is looking into the matter of students' examinations in biblical knowledge. The very poor appearance made by their young men lately is too much to be passed over.

THE Raeburn portrait of Burns is said to have been discovered, and its history since it left the artist's studio is to be published by Mr. Barrington Nash, an authority on bygone portraiture.

THE greater part of Sennacherib's palace at Kouyunjik, including the library chambers, has been cleared out, and 1,700 tablets and fragments have been acquired for the British Museum.

THE Bishop of Bedford, Messrs. Price Hughes and Charrington, and Miss Black are at the head of a movement to raise the wages of women at the East-end from one penny to four pence an hour.

LORD SALISBURY acknowledges receipt of a strongly-worded letter from Rev. Jacob Primmer condemning "the insane proposal of the Government to establish a Catholic university in Ireland."

BISHOP DOWDEN has consecrated the church of All Saints Brougham Street, Edinburgh. The ceremony was ritualistic to a degree; incense was freely used, and a confessional was one of the objects consecrated.

A GREAT religious revival is reported among the crofters of Lewis since the settlement of Mr. Donald McCallum as parish minister in August; 300 adults are said to have professed their faith in Christ, and many others are in anxiety about salvation.

A SINGULAR blunder occurred at a wedding in Chislehurst. The clergyman left out a part of the service and the bride left without the ring. The omission was not observed till the party were at breakfast. They hurried back to church and had the ceremony repeated.

THE Rev. Mr. M'Leod, of Prince Edward Island, at present sojourning in Scotland, had his infant daughter baptized by Dr. Andrew A. Bonar in Finnieston Church at the Wednesday even prayer meeting. Much interest was taken in the event. At Dr. Bonar's request Mr. M'Leod closed the service.

A TRAINING college for lay workers under the auspices of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has been opened by the Bishops of London and Bedford in the Commercial Road. It has accommodation for twenty-five resident workers, whilst training for non-resident students will be given in evening classes.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Manchester Guardian*, who was present at the missionary convention in the Metropolitan Tabernacle recently, at which addresses were delivered by Dr. Maclaren and Rev. John McNeill, says the proceedings left upon him the impression that Mr. Spurgeon intends to form at no distant date a foreign missionary society.